

Communities First Evaluation

Act - Reflect- Plan - Act

Learning and action research in
community regeneration policy

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Evaluation

- *Examination of the outturn of a policy, programme or project against what was expected*
- *Designed to ensure that the lessons learned are fed back into the decision-making process*
- *Continually refining government action to reflect what best achieves objectives and promotes the public interest*

HM Treasury 'The Green Book - Appraisal and Evaluation in Central Government' TSO

Measurement

- Distance travelled
 - From A to B
 - baselines & indicator development
- Progress against objectives
 - SMART
- Comparative assessment

Communities First Evaluation

- context -

- Diverse programme
 - Most deprived ED's
 - Pockets of deprivation
 - Imaginative proposals (thematic)
- Dynamic context
 - changing implementation
- Delivery/management models
- Action research and policy development

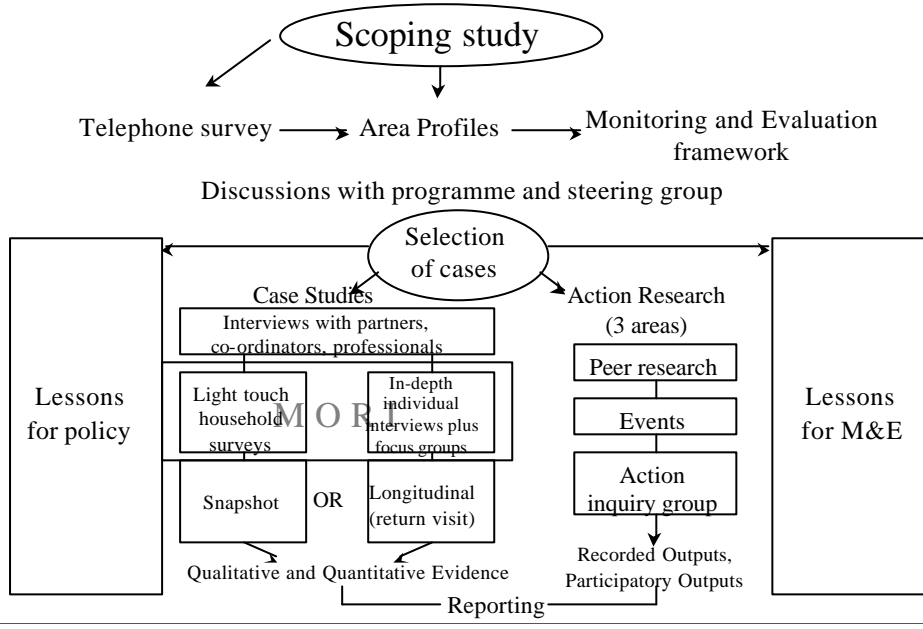
The Consortium

- Cambridge Policy Consultants
- Arwel Jones Associates
- Danny Burns (Social and Organisational Learning as Action Research, UWE)
- MORI
- Cities Research Centre

Communities First Evaluation - Stages -

- Scoping Study
- Profiles
- Effectiveness of Communities First partnerships
- M&E framework integrating community, local authority and national monitoring
- Findings and advice on programme administration
- Attribution
- Critique of programme design

Communities First Evaluation - Methodology -



Key issues for the evaluation

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Rationale* | Is it appropriate? Is it viable? Are objectives well-founded |
| Guidance, bidding and selection | Do they reflect the rationale and objectives? Do they fit with national/local strategies? |
| Implementation | Has there been adequate support? What capacity building has been achieved? |
| Process of change | Change in organisational structure. Change in way in which community is involved. |
| Attribution | How much attributed to Communities First? Positive and negative impacts on existing provision. |
| CAPs | Are they appropriate (benchmarking)? Do they incorporate change in delivery mechanisms? Are outcome targets consistent with national and local targets? |
| Monitoring and evaluation | Measuring - capacity building - process change - outcome impacts |

Initial findings

- Rationale - WAG recognition
- Baseline development
- Boundaries for Census areas 2004+
- Measuring success - M&E framework
 - progress / social capital
 - success / extent of regeneration
- Evaluating management of diverse, multi-level, non-prescriptive programme

The way forward

- Taking forward initial findings
 - use
 - sharing
 - direction
- Action - internal
- Communication Strategy
- Relationship to the evaluation
 - awareness
 - engagement
 - ongoing contact